Defence Ministry riddled with scams and touts

†1079. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Ministry is in the grip of touts and Government have failed to get rid of it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are much bigger scams other than the coffin scam, on which CAG report has come; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to save the Minister of Defence from such type of scams?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Purchase of small items for the army from Small Scale Industries

†1080. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to purchase small items for army from Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent every year on purchase of these items from abroad; and

(c) if not, the manner in which Government propose to promote the Small Scale Industries and save foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Capacities in Ordnance Factories have been created to cater to the demand from the Services and mainly the Army. As such under the policy of the Government, existing capacity of Ordnance Factories is first required to be fully booked for

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.